

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA PRAISES PRESENT COURSE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. A COMMENTARY BY A KRIVOPALOV IN IZVESTIYA OCTOBER 14

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DESCRIBES THE PRESENT COURSE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GLOWING

TERMS, CITING AND THEN GOING BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S ARGUMENTS IN HIS RECENT TELEVISION INTERVIEW IN DEFENSE OF A CONTINUATION OF THE DETENTE RELATIONSHIP. KRIVOPALOV CONTENDS THAT WE MUST NOT ONLY COEXIST, BUT ALSO COOPERATE, AND THAT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION ARE "WIDE INDEED." HE APPEARS TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMITS AS A DEVICE WHICH ENSURES AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. KRIVOPALOV PAINTS A ROSY PICTURE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IN BUILDING UP TO HIS CONCLUSION THAT "REGARDLESS OF ALL ATTEMPTS BY OPPONENTS OF DETENTE TO DISRUPT ITS IMPLEMENTATION, THE BUSINESS-LIKE, REASONABLE COURSE WHICH HAS BEEN LAID DOWN IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BEAR NEW FRUIT." HE ASCRIBES "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE" TO SUMMIT MEETINGS "WHICH HAVE ENSURED THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON MANY DIVISIVE PROBLEMS" AND HAVE LED TO SIGNATURE OF 30 IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS. AND HE CITES FAVORABLY U.S.-SOVIET ACHIEVEMENT OF "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" WHICH MADE POSSIBLE THE CSCE SUMMIT AND FINAL ACT. HE ALSO SAYS THAT THE NEW STEPS WHICH THE TWO NATIONS ARE NOW TAKING WILL HAVE "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE" IN THE AREA OF ARMS CONTROL. "SIGNATURE OF A LONG TERM AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS SHOULD LEAD TO (RESTRAINT OF THE ARMS RACE)."

3. KRIVOPALOV DOES WARN BRIEFLY ABOUT "INFUENTIALE CIRCLES" BOTH IN EUROPE AND BEYOND THE ATLANTIC WHO "ATTEMPT TO INTERPRET THE SUBSTANCE OF DETENTE AND ITS PROSPECTS IN THEIR OWN WAY," AND WHO CONCLUDE THAT ONLY THE SOVIET UNION STANDS TO BENEFIT.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE IMMEDIATELY MOVES TO THE SECRETARY'S OCTOBER 12 TELEVISION INTERVIEW TO CITE SUPPORT FOR HIS ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE DETENTE RELATIONSHIP AGREEING WITH THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS THAT POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AMONG OTHER OBJECTIVE FACTORS, MAKES IT IMPERATIVE FOR THE TWO POWERS TO COEXIST. KRIVOPALOV GOES BEYOND COEXISTENCE TO CONTEND THAT WE MUST NOT ONLY COEXIST, BUT ALSO COOPERATE -- AND THAT THE AREAS IN WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE ARE "WIDE INDEED."

5. AS EXAMPLES OF WHAT CAN BE DONE, HE SAYS THAT THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT MEETING OF THE U.S.-SOVIET JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON WERE MET WITH APPROVAL BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, AND QUOTES FROM BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE TO THE COUNCIL THAT CSCE AND CONTINUING DETENTE HAVE CREATED "NEW POSSIBILITIES" FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CSCE PARTICIPANTS. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION HE POINTS TO THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WHICH WAS RECENTLY HELD IN MOSCOW, AND NOTES THAT "FURTHER PROGRESS" HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THAT FIELD SINCE THE

PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMISSION A YEAR AGO.

6. COMMENT. ESSENTIAL HARMONY AND BASIC OPTIMISM HAVE BEEN THE
KEYNOTES OF RECENT PRESS PLAY ON U.S.-SOVIET STATE-TO-STATE
RELATIONS HERE, BUT THIS IS THE MOST UPBEAT PIECE WE HAVE SEEN.
END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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